

From: Jim Hentz
To: Nancy Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US||EPA
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Subject: Lahaina waste water

6/8/2009
EPA
Ms. Nancy Rumril

As a 38 year resident Maui Taxpayer, previously licensed sewage treatment plant operator, facilities manager and WMTA board member I would like to comment on the Lahaina waste water treatment plant.

It is past the time that a master plan for the facility, related odor problems and use of the effluent should be in place. The billions of dollars invested in Kaanapali and neighboring areas generate an enormous percentage of County, State and Federal tax revenue, nearly 50% of the entire Maui County Property Tax and nearly 50% of the State of Hawaii's TAT and GET, yet we are stuck without a definitive plan for improving the facility.

This is not news, it has been an issue for decades yet local government officials both appointed and elected have done very little to address the problems and needed improvements. We have studied the algae blooms, studied the odor problem, studied the use of treated water, etc. etc. The number of dollars needed is intimidating but we need to put the boot to the bureaucrats, use the studies and start getting something done.

It seems essential that the EPA take steps to force the issue to move things along. Talk is cheap and solutions are expensive but if there aren't definitive short and long term plans put in place to address the issues, nothing will be done until we are in a crisis. We will continue to fall behind as the facility ages and water sources continue to shrink so in my opinion government must stop talking (or ignoring) the problems and deal with them.

There is no question that the problems are huge but there is an opportunity here to face reality and start moving forward. The West Maui Taxpayers Association is willing to do what we can to facilitate the EPA's interaction with the community and local government.

We sincerely hope that your agency will take the opportunity to initiate an action plan as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Jim Hentz
General Manager
Consolidated Resorts Management